

Watershed Implementation Plan for Fairview Beach (Potomac River) in King George County

May 15, 2014

Smoot Memorial Library, 6:00-8:00 pm

Community Working Group Meeting #2

Attendees:

Tommy Thompson, VDH
Charlie Lively, TCCSWCD
Katie Wallet, TCCSWCD
Etta Lucas, TCCSWCD
Mike Bennett, citizen
Janet Harrover, citizen
Don Pfalzgraf, citizen
Mike Broadus, Virginia Cooperative Extension
B.J. Strank, citizen
Jim Howard, KG Supervisor
Heidi Moltz, ICPRB
Jim Palmer, ICPRB
Rebecca Shoemaker, DEQ
May Sligh, DEQ

The meeting began at 6pm. May Sligh welcomed attendees and explained that since this was a “work session” there would be no formal presentation. Rather, the group would use the projected spreadsheet to evaluate load reduction strategies already included and consider others that may have merit. May explained that the group would address the following: evaluate the current list of strategies (spreadsheet), evaluate additional programs/technical resources that could enhance implementation, identify groups for business and residential implementation support, consider regulatory controls currently in place or needed that could induce actions to improve water quality in the impaired watersheds, discuss monitoring component. For the most part, meeting comments followed the spreadsheet categories in bold (below). As well, a large map of the community was used to review locations identified by the Government Working Group and identify additional BMP locations (color coded dots were used).

Infrastructure:

- Tommy Thompson shared that he found info about location of septic tanks in the files; we should identify each septic tank so that we can track requirement of five-year pump-out; we are not aware of any failed drain fields, so cannot require them to connect to sewer (a problem would be seen when the waste surfaces); Mike Shrewsbury can help us get access to the septic systems to do dye testing at the trailer park
- Someone else said that Mike Shrewsbury is key to reaching the people in the trailers
- Some trailers are closer to the sewer line and are hooked into the sewer line. There were 6 hooked in illegally and the PSA corrected. It's believed there may still be some connected improperly.
- VDH said there was no fee to abandon the septic system. They must pump-out and fill in septic tank. It was also noted that VDH does not have records of abandoned septic tanks that currently exist in Fairview Beach
- VDH also shared that the marina boat pump out station has been repaired

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- Someone asked why the trailer park was not required to hook into the sewer when the houses were. Jim Howard: If they were in the sanitary district, then they were required to hook up to sewer; will look into where the sanitary district boundaries lie
- May: what are the county rules for hooking into sewer? Jim Howard said there may be new laws under consideration that require hook up at time of property transfer
- We need to evaluate the cost-benefits of repairing failed septs and hooking folks up to sewer, especially in trailer park.
- Someone mentioned the following: Rural Development may have assistance for the trailer park (especially senior citizens?), but this may or may not help since the trailers are rented. There is a DEQ cost share practice for alternative septic systems (like peat and mound) that may be an option for systems in the where conventional systems have failed or replace an identified straight pipe in situations where the installation/replacement of a septic tank system cannot be permitted.

Education:

- Septic system education needed at Grandview Estates (behind firehouse)
- Visitors by boat need information and free bags because they bring dogs ashore to do their business. Suggestion from someone in the group: install a sign at the beach focused on getting boaters to pick up their pet waste
- Educational brochures should be carried on the two water taxis operated by the restaurants
- Attendees were fine with all other programs suggested in the spreadsheet
- It was suggested that the FBRA website could be used as one mechanism to distribute educational materials.

Pasture/Livestock:

- 25 caged chickens found (off Smiths Warf Rd); waste collected in tubs and put on garden. There are 1100 acres available to spread.
- There are possibly some goats also in the watershed
- A letter was provided by Mike Broaddus, documenting the livestock found in the watershed

Monitoring:

- VDH monitoring will end this year; we can get grant funding to continue monitoring as part of BMP pre and post. However, we also want to do monitoring to mimic what VDH has been doing – can our grant money go to VDH so that they can continue the monitoring? Since this is the best way to evaluate whether bacteria levels are safe for swimming, efforts will be made to incorporate this type of sampling too.
- VDH said they'd seen progress last year (2 closures) and hope to see again in 2014
- Hotspot monitoring locations should be on each side of restaurant and at 2nd and 6th streets
- Citizen monitors need more supplies and plan to continue monitoring especially after storm events

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Runoff Reductions:

- Where can we add rain gardens? Attendees were unsure of any beyond what the Government Working group identified in spreadsheet.
- The county may limit the type of vegetation used at the bluff. Someone mentioned that grass has been planted on the bluff 3x and last year it was fertilized. There was some discussion about putting up another retaining wall to stabilize the slope. Also it was noted that ~30' of beach was lost in the last hurricane.
- Tom Hudson added that with respect to the beach erosion strategies, we do not need any work on the groins or additional breakwater structures. He said the breakwater with groins at 5th street works well and the ones at 3rd and 4th streets work fairly well.
- The county now requires BMPs: when the impervious area on the lot exceeds 16%, stormwater BMPs are required; we need to get info from county on the details and if possible where the BMPs are already located in Fairview Beach
- What can be done with the corner of 3rd and Fairview? There is a grate that does not appear to be connected to a drainage pipe. Jim Howard will speak to VDOT.
- Methods for reducing seagulls as a source of bacteria are needed

The next meeting will be with the members of the Steering Committee. This group will assist with reviews of the draft document, working group ideas and presentation materials for the final public meeting, which is expected to be in late **July**.

May Sligh will advise attendees of the links for presentation materials as soon as they are posted on the DEQ website. She will also advise of any future planned meeting dates. May thanked attendees for assisting with the spreadsheet updates and additions to the map.

Questions or information requests should be addressed to May Sligh with the DEQ-Northern Regional Office by phone at (804)450-3802 and by e-mail at may.sligh@deq.virginia.gov.